



New England Agricultural Statistics



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USDA Measures National Cattle Inventory

As of January 1, 2005 New England cattle inventories had a slight decrease from the previous year. Massachusetts and Rhode Island inventories remained unchanged. Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire cattle inventories increased slightly, while Vermont experienced a four percent decline. Across all six states, the cattle and calf inventory decreased one percent compared to the national total which was up only one percent. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will again measure the Nation's cattle inventory with the 2005 July Cattle Survey.

Approximately 450 of New England's cattle farmers are being asked to participate in this voluntary survey. Locally, the survey is being conducted by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Data collected will be used to establish official USDA statistics for national cattle inventories, calf crop, and cattle death loss. "We are asking for the cooperation of New England's farm operators to ensure that agriculture in our region is clearly represented in the national livestock picture," states Aubrey Davis, Director, New England Agricultural Statistics. "The survey provides useful information needed to help United States producers make decisions on purchases, sales, and capital investments." In January, many more New England farmers are contacted to establish cattle statistics for each New England state.

Sample questions and a letter requesting assistance with this project will be mailed to the producers selected to participate. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between June 30 and July 11, 2005. As with all NASS survey work, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

The national survey results will be available in the **Cattle** report from Washington, D.C. on July 22, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet (www.usda.gov/nass) within minutes of the scheduled release time and the statistics are reprinted in the August issue of the **Agricultural Review**. The monthly New England **Agricultural Review** is available on the Internet (www.nass.usda.gov/nh/) and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[New England Agricultural Statistics is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

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